Dear Tony, 4/10/89

Your contact seems to have garbled the telecast HSCA testimony of retired FBI SA Arthur Murtagh. Published, if you don't have Ji.. and I do.

Something like the joy he attributed to Hoover when he learned that Dr. King had been killed is what Murtagh testified to observing from the Atlanta SA who, if I recall correctly, was a King case agent, something like Santanella.

It was just after they'd gotten the word that Murtagh and the other SA were walking together, perhaps to their cars, when the joyous exclamation ensued.

Also, I think it is unlikely that Hoover would have been in his office at that hour, after 7 in Washington, absent some comeplling emergency. He seems to have enjoyed his suppers with others.

In addition, all the records I've examined seem to indicate that Hoover not only was not in his office but was not consulted pronto. Soon, I'm sure, but not immediately.

When Memphis SAC Jensen phoned FBIHQ, according to his guilty-plea testimony, he was not put through to Hoover and he made no claim to instructions from Hoover personally.

In fact the FBI was ehver able to come up with authorization for it to involve itself in the investigation from the AG. Had Hoover been in the office I'm sure he would have seen to this because he had no jusisdtiction unless he alleged a conspiracy, required to trigger the civil-rights statute.

Ultimately he did this, after a couple of weeks, but he had a phobia about assassination conspiracies.

I'll send a copy to Jim to see if he recalls anything not in accord with what I say.

Glad you stopped bleeding. I'm familiar with that problem. Had to spend five days in Johns Hopkins for what is ordinarily out-patient surgery. I think Jim said it was ulcer. If so it is important to talk to yourself and not provoke it. Mine never gives me trouble and I live on a high level of anticoagulent and take three medicines that irritate it. Also three drinks a day. Of course they are not all the same but I think you can help it behave.

You ask what I think is the best try. I think Murtaugh and if he published testimony is not enough as of a decade ago he was teaching constitutionak law at Clarkson College, Potsdam, N.Y. He then lived at I think Constable, N.Y., not an inappropriate address. But I'm sure you've gotten a bum steer. Very common in the King records. People looking for some benefit made up stories they thought might do them some good. I was often able to trace these things to street information, not infrequently improved upon.

As a generality I think Hoover would never have been so demonstrative unless, perhaps, with Tolson. About anything at all. Certainly not before a SA.

Beware of geeks bearing gifts!

Harold